Harold Weisberg
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Dear Ed, Planer, news director, WMAL-TV

When the second round in the Gervais thing started, I phoned you because there was something I knew I thought you might want to. It was then that I learned of your move. Hope it is working out well.

I have not made public use of it and do not intend to until the proper time comes, but I am James Earl Ray's investigator. I feel,it is necessary to keep the two roles, writer and defense investigator, completely separated, in Ray's interest and for my own integrity.

His brother Jerry tried to get for him a dub of your tape of an appearance by Gerold Frank on your station, on a talk show, when Frank was promoting his book. Frank is a man of considerable skill, no scruple and a ceaseless quest for pelf. If he said of Ray what he wrote or only part of what I heard him say on other stations, he without doubt hurt Ray, without doubt spoke falsely, and only one familiar with the fact, as one can't be from Frank's writing, can understand this. Frank is a persuasive man, in writing and in speaking, as only an eloquent man unconcerned with truth can be. He has conned some if not most of the best in the talk-show business.

James would like a dub of Frank's appearance on your station. He has been talking about writing to the FCC. I asked him to let me make the request. An appearance of this kind on a Chicago station can be more hurtful to James because he has family and friends in the area. It is not at all helpful at a time a habeas corpus petition is being prepared for him.It is possible the judge was in Chicago at the time of the show.

If you can provide it, we'll appreciate it. It can be at any normal reel-to-reel speed or on a cassette. If it makes no difference to you, the cassette would be better. Whenever the lawyers or I see him we have cassette recorders. Whichever goes there first would take it to him andplay it for him. If cassettes are a problem for you, we can dub.

The entire defense now is quite opposite the way it began. He is without resources and the entire defense is volunteer. He was ruined by the commercialism, in which he held zero interest. The final divvy was 40% Huie, 60% Percy Foreman. There was nothing to sell is he were found innocent. Foreman saw to it that he could not be. He actually expected to make about $600,000 from this. Too bad the bar association never does anything about such matters. Foreman never conducted any investigation, never prepared any defense, and accurately figured that the federal and local political situations protected him, as they did. Actually, there is virtually no case against Ray. He can't even be placed in Memphis within two hours of the crime. All to the contrary is contrived. If he ~~xxxxx~~ prevails in his motions, I doubt the prosecution will bring him to trial. He is seeking a trial, something he has never had.

From experience I know media people find this hard to believe. However, if your work takes you to Washington, we are but an hour away. It has taken me longer to get to Poissant from the 'Bleau at rush-hour that it takes me to get to downtown Washington under those conditions. And you might also be interested in an updating on my New Orleans investigations, which were always independent and had nothing to do with Shaw. I've pieced together a fair part of the hidden Oswald history and connections. I am without doubt that your station was deliberately used in it. DSU, that is. Oswald also knew how to get in touch with Rottman NOT at the station. As I recall, two other phones. (I've had to lay that work aside for a while.)

Thanks and best,

Harold Weisberg